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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/481,572	01/11/2000	JACQUELINE J. SHAN	P8061-9013	5800

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ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.
1425 K STREET, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

MELLER, MICHAEL V

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1654

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

JD

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/481,572	SHAN ET AL.
	Examiner Michael V. Meller	Art Unit 1654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,8,10,23,25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,8,10,23,25 and 26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 8 and 25 are substantial duplicates of one another.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 8, 10, 23, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b or e) as being anticipated by Khwaja et al. or Meruelo et al.

Khwaja teaches the use of St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) extract to treat the claimed disease, see abstract, cols. 10, 20, 23-24, 27-28, etc. Khwaja teaches that such diseases/conditions (cardiac arrhythmia, angina, diabetes, hypertension) can be treated with the extract.

Meruelo does teach the administration of an extract of St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) to treat diabetes mellitus, see cols. 4 and 6.

Thus, the claims are anticipated by the references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 8, 10, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khwaja et al. or Meruelo et al.

The above discussion is applied here. The arguments are the same as above.

Thus, the rebuttal is the same as above.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khwaja et al. or Meruelo et al. taken with Kikuta et al. '485 or Kikuta et al. '957.

The above discussion is applied here. The arguments are the same as above.

Thus, the rebuttal is the same as above.

The Kikuta references each teach that *hypericum* is known to be used to treat congestive heart failure (which is also claimed by applicant in claim 1). Thus it would have been within the purview of the skilled artisan to administer the extract to someone having chronic heart failure since the primary references each teach using the extract for conditions such as cardiac arrhythmia, cardiac inotropy, and the Kikuta references teach using the extract to treat congestive heart failure. Since such conditions are closely related (as noted by the claims themselves) it would have been well within the purview of the skilled artisan to use the extract for the claimed purpose.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael V. Meller whose telephone number is 703-308-4230. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday: 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback can be reached on 703-306-3220. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-0294 for regular communications and 703-308-0294 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Michael V. Meller
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1654

MVM
July 17, 2003